

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Business Meeting  
and Closed Executive Session

October 1, 2013

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Business Meeting and Closed Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2013, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Kristi Swett (via electronic media from 5:30 p.m. until 6:25 p.m.), Vice President Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young, and Lavenita Vaitai, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Craig Ruesch, Interim Executive Director Human Resources; Gary Smith, Chief Information Officer; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Shauna Olson, Elementary School Support; Rebecca Pittam, Principal, Washington Elementary School; John Kelly, Assistant Principal, Washington Elementary School; Jared Wright, Assistant Principal, Clayton Middle School, and representative for the Salt Lake Association of School Administrators; John Robson, the board's legal counsel from Fabian & Clendenin; D.J. Baxter, Executive Director, Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City; Edward Butterfield, Project Manager, Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Jason Olson, Public Information Officer; Tina Hatch, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Business Meeting of October 1, 2013, five motions were made. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bennett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:35 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

\*(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, personnel, and property items.

\*\* (Young and Sandberg)

Board Business Meeting

October 1, 2013

Present for Closed Session were Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, John Robson, the board's legal counsel, and Kristi Swett, participating via electronic media.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. and returned to the Board Business Meeting at 6:32 p.m.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	X		
EMERY	X		
NELSON	X		
SWETT	1		2,3,4,5
SANDBERG	X		
YOUNG	X		
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

**2. BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

- Vice President Bennett welcomed everyone in the audience. She excused President Swett. She recognized the presence of Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Jared Wright, representing the Salt Lake Association of School Administrators; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; and Sharon Grey, President, Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association. She welcomed students from Westminster College enrolled in the Teaching and Learning in a Diverse Society course taught by John Kelly, Assistant Principal of Washington Elementary School.
- Allison Woolsey, Westminster College student, led the audience in reciting The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

<sup>A</sup>(2) Approval was given to the five items included in the Consent Agenda on a vote of 6 to 0, with President Swett absent at the time of the vote. These items are listed below.  
\*\*(Nelson and Young)

- The Purchasing/Accounting Report, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, a payment voucher report that includes travel and professional expenditures, and a budget report dated August 2013.
- The Human Resources Department Report, included new contract employment for seven employees, non-contract to contract employment for eleven, changes for seven, and releases for two.
- Minutes of the Board Business Meeting held September 3, 2013.
- Minutes of the Board Study Session held September 17, 2013.
- Board Policy Revisions:
  - I-15, Interscholastic Athletics and Extracurricular Activities
  - S-9, Student Health Services and Requirements

B. REQUESTS TO SPEAK

There were no requests to speak.

C. REPORTS

1. Highlights from School Improvement Plans.

- a. Washington Elementary School. Rebecca Pittam, Principal of Washington Elementary School, thanked the board for the opportunity to provide them with a report about Washington Elementary School. She introduced Tanya Miller, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, John Kelly, Assistant Principal, and Mike Harman, Homeless Liaison/Counselor. Ms. Pittam discussed the Washington Elementary School Highlight Report, and talked about the things being done at Washington to help students achieve growth. She talked about being invited to the Legislative Education Task Force meeting, and shared information she presented at the meeting, including a handout called 'The Washington Way', which has been added to the official minutes. Ms. Pittam talked about the core principles included in the handout, and stated each school is unique and different because each school is full of unique and different individuals. She said a common vision is the key to success. She said the common vision at Washington, combined with resource management, invested stakeholders, highly effective instruction, and professional educators, have helped the school achieve more growth. She stated Washington has a child-centered approach, and they teach responsibility and accountability while encouraging students to "Dream Big. Work Hard".

Ms. Pittam discussed the collaboration between teachers at the school, and said they are 'on fire' with Illuminate, sharing data and using the assessments to drive instruction. She said the teachers are open to professional development. She said Washington strives to hire paraprofessionals who are retired teachers, or who are students preparing to become teachers. She said the coaches are part of the Washington family, and are welcomed as part of the team. Ms. Pittam said interventions at Washington achieve an 80-100% effectiveness rate, and highly effective teachers deliver highly effective instruction. She also said she uses Title I money to lower class sizes, and the Community Learning Center is extremely important in teaching the whole student. She said parent involvement at Washington has increased and their PTA is gaining involved members.

The board thanked Ms. Pittam and the staff at Washington for their hard work, and recognized Ms. Pittam for the efforts she has made to improve Washington. The board also thanked Mike Harman for his work with the McKinney Vento students at Washington.

2. 2013-14 Preliminary Fall Enrollment. Gary Smith, Chief Information Officer, distributed a document titled 'Preliminary Fall Enrollment 2013'. He said the counts are used to determine budgets and resources, and will be finalized over the next three weeks. He said the Distribution Report, including ELL, poverty, and race/ethnicity information, will be available at the end of October. He discussed the process of preparing the information, and pointed out schools with large changes in their numbers, noting higher enrollment affects the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU).

Mr. Smith answered questions about charter schools and the inclusion of student athletes in the numbers. He said new reporting measures will make it easier to track choice initiatives. The board discussed the allocation of resources based on the number of students, and how information is gathered from the state. The board thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation. A copy of the handout has been included in the official minutes.

3. Academic Progress – Test Results. Jo Ellen Shaeffer, Director of Performance and Accountability, was unable to attend the meeting. Superintendent Withers answered Ms. Emery's question about the handout given to board members. This topic will be included on the agenda for the next board meeting. A copy of the handout has been included in the official minutes.

#### D. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Extension of West Capitol Hill RDA. D.J. Baxter, Executive Director, and Ed Butterfield, Project Manager, Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City, presented the board with information about a modification to the West Capitol Hill Urban Renewal Project Area. The modification includes an increase in the tax revenue necessary for the project, as well as a 'share back' to the district. Mr. Baxter explained the details of the project, and discussed the benefits to West High School, Washington Elementary School, and the surrounding neighborhood, including safer passage across 300 West. He also discussed the progress of the project. Mr. Baxter and Mr. Butterfield appeared before the board to ask them to vote to amend the plan, noting they estimate the tax collection will take until 2019, with a deadline of 2021. The modifications will be voted on at the October 29, 2013, meeting of the Redevelopment Agency.

The board asked questions about the project and discussed the impact of the improvements on West High School and Washington Elementary School. They also discussed how the money from the RDA would be used to improve safety at those schools. The consensus was to direct the representatives of the board, Dr. Nelson and Ms. Roberts, to vote in favor of the modifications at the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Redevelopment Agency.

#### E. ACTION AGENDA

1. SMART School Technology Grant. Vice President Bennett explained the information included in Exhibit E1, discussing the SMART School Technology Grant and the decision to include it on the Action Agenda. The district has applied for the grant on behalf of Newman Elementary School, and the grant has been awarded. She said the total district contribution has not been determined at this point, and the contract has not been delivered.

<sup>A</sup>(3) A motion was made to ratify the application for the SMART School Technology Grant. Approval was given on a vote of 6 to 0, with President Swett absent at the time of the vote.

\*\* (Young and Nelson)

Prior to approval of Motion #3, the board discussed the \$745 per pupil commitment for the grant and the source of the funding, as well as the laws in place for applying for grants and the process the district uses for bringing grant applications before the board. It was also noted the district could drop out of the grant if they felt the monetary commitment is too high.

Ms. Emery expressed a desire to hire additional teachers rather than go forward with the grant, and the board discussed the process that would be necessary to make this happen. Mr. Clára expressed concern that proper procedures were not followed, and distributed a copy of a letter sent to the Auditor of the State of Utah. The letter has been included in the official minutes.

<sup>A</sup>(4) A motion was made to call for the question to ratify the application for the SMART School Technology Grant. Approval was given on a vote of 6 to 0, with President Swett absent at the time of the vote.

\*\* (Young and Sandberg)

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

UCAS Scores. Superintendent Withers distributed a document with the Utah Comprehensive Accountability System (UCAS) scores for schools in the district. He noted the 2012 and 2013 proficiency rates, the total UCAS points, and the difference between UCAS scores and Senate Bill 271 (SB271) scores. He said four of the top ten schools are in the district. He said growth is not counted in SB271 scores, and UCAS gives a more complete picture of schools like Dilworth Elementary and Washington Elementary. He said UCAS recognizes high-growth schools, and points out where schools need help. He noted the scores for Horizonte and district charter schools have not been included, but he will try to get the information.

Education Task Force. Superintendent Withers referred to the discussion with Ms. Pittam, Principal, Washington Elementary School.

High School Accountability. Superintendent Withers said the high school principals have met twice to create a better metric to measure high school progress. He said the district goal is a 90% graduation rate for all subgroups, and all students. The board expressed concern about measuring Horizonte in the same way other high schools are measured. Superintendent Withers said there is a 6 or 7 year cohort rate for Horizonte, to include students who return to complete graduation requirements.

Bully Movie. Superintendent Withers said the movie *Bully* would be shown at the Salt Lake City Library on Wednesday, October 2, 2013, and at the Rose Wagner Theater on Monday, October 7, 2013. After these dates, all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will have seen the movie and received the anti-bullying lesson. He said last year was the baseline, and the district will be able to measure a difference in reports of bullying and attendance after this year.

Following the Superintendent's report, Ms. Emery expressed concern about the decision to hire an in-house attorney for the district, stating the money could be used to hire new teachers. Mr. Robson explained reasons the district should have representation available for 504 hearings, contract reviews, and other situations, noting his firm would still be working for the district when necessary. Mr. Clára expressed concern that a body separate from the board was making the decision to hire. Vice President Bennett noted the board does not approve every new position, and has delegated that authority to the Superintendent. She said the Superintendent was seeking the board leadership's advice on this matter, not the permission to hire.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Ms. Young, seconded by Ms. Emery, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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Janet M. Roberts  
Business Administrator

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